

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE,
AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS**

1.-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 29, wherein the server stores a plurality of configuration data records in correspondence with a functionality of the client.
18. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 29, further comprising the step of autonomous identification of the client within a defined machine context.
19. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 29, wherein at least two of the plurality of configuration data records are stored locally in the client.
20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of operating the client by activating one of the at least two stored configuration data records in the client.
21. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 29, further comprising the steps of storing pollable firmware data records in the server, transmitting a request ~~[[by]]~~ from the client to the server for receiving one of the firmware data records, and storing and activating the received firmware data record in the client.
22. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 29, wherein the client communication is matched to the automation system to enable operation of the client during continuous operation of the automation system.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[15]] 29, wherein the client and the server operate on a single automation device.
24. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[15]] 29, further comprising the step of loading the configuration data records for different machine upgrade levels for a machine in the server by an engineering system.
25. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[15]] 29, further comprising the step of automatically loading into the server a an-existing configuration data record ~~[[in]] residing on the client in the server.~~
26. (Currently amended) A method for starting up an automation component in an automation system, comprising the steps of:
- requesting from a server a communication address for initiating and activating this communication address;
 - ~~configuring~~ identifying a functionality of a client, which represents an automation component, by using a first configuration data record received from the server ~~which enables identification of a functionality of the client, and subsequent automatic activation of the first configuration data record;~~ and
 - configuring the client with ~~by using~~ a second configuration data record received from the server commensurate in correspondence with the identified functionality, and
 - ~~by activating~~ starting up the automation component by using the second configuration data record.
27. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 26, further comprising the steps of storing the configuration data records for different machine upgrade levels for a machine in the server beforehand by an engineering system to allow request and activation of the configuration data records when the machine is later started up by an input of an operator on the machine.

28. (Currently amended) An automation system, comprising:
- a plurality of automation components, having
 - a client defining a first automation component; and
 - a server defining a second automation component and connected to the client via communication means;
 - a plurality of configuration data records stored on the server,
 - wherein the client is configured to automatically check whether it has an initial configuration data record that allows identification of its functionality, and to request from the server one of the plurality of configuration data records as an initial configuration data record,
 - wherein the ~~server~~ client identifies its functionality based on the initial configuration data record and requests from the server a second ~~in response to the request transmits a requested~~ configuration data record commensurate with the identified functionality to the client, and
 - wherein the transmitted second configuration data record is stored in the client for configuring the client.
29. (New) A method for automatic configuration of an automation component of an automation system, comprising the steps of:
- storing on a server a plurality of configuration data records for automation components of the automation system;
 - a client checking whether it has an initial configuration data record that allows identification of its functionality, and the client requesting, if no initial configuration data record that allows identification of its functionality is present on the client, from the server an initial configuration data record;
 - the client identifying its functionality based on the initial configuration data record;
 - the client requesting from the server a second configuration data record commensurate with the identified functionality; and
 - the client automatically loading from the server the second configuration data record and configuring the client.

30. (New) The method as claimed in claim 26, further comprising the steps of loading with an engineering system the first and second configuration data records of a machine only in a server for the machine, and making the first and second configuration data records automatically available to the requesting client.
31. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the client functionality comprises a location or a plug in slot of the client, a type of the automation component, or a specific functionality of the automation component, or a combination thereof.
32. (New) The method of claim 29, further including the steps of assigning to the client a temporary dynamic IP address for initial communication with the server; and thereafter activating for the client an IP address corresponding to a functionality of the client.